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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 71st and 72d AAA Divisions in Prague

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 1 November 1951 to 15 June 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 27 October 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGE 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 15 June 1952, the 71st and 72d AAA Divs were stationed at Prague (N 51/L 68). The 71st AAA Div, whose commander was Colonel Kopa (fnu), and whose chief of staff was Lieutenant Colonel Rudolf Kovarna, included the 151st, 159th and 164th AAA Regts, each consisting of five 88-mm AA batteries. No battalion headquarters were available in peacetime. The 72d AAA Div included the 124th, 128th and 160th AAA Regts.¹
2. The two division headquarters and the 151st and 164th AAA Regts were in the former insane hospital on the west side of Cimiska in Bohnice near Prague. The 159th AAA Regt was in a former Silesian convent in Kobylis near Prague.¹
3. The 159th AAA Regt had the designation of "LPDP 159" or protiletadlový dílostulecký pluk 159. The unit was commanded by a staff captain whose name was unknown. The regiment, at which source underwent basic training from 1 November to 26 November 1951 was the training unit for the two AAA divisions. During the period of source's training the regiment consisted of five batteries each numbering 100 men. The code designations of the units were "Jaslo" for the 1st Btry, "Dukla" for the 2nd Btry, "Buzuluk" for the 3rd Btry and "Sokolovo" for the 4th Btry. The code designation of the 5th Btry was not recollected. The ordnance materiel included pistols, rifles and submachine guns. When the recruits were divided up on 26 November 1951, 20 men were assigned to an AAA officer candidate school, 120 men to the NCO school in Bohnice, and the other men to the two divisions.
4. The 151st AAA Regt had the designation "PLDP 151" protiletadlový dílostulecký pluk 151. The unit was commanded by Zdenek Stekl and included five batteries, the 5th of which was the headquarters battery. The 4th Btry was commanded by Lieutenant Musil (fnu), son of General Musil (fnu), whose appointment was unknown. Two batteries of the division alternately were in firing positions near Na Vidouli and Ruzyně.³ Instructors said that the regiment was scheduled to include six batteries in war-time, with three batteries forming one battalion, and that the battalion headquarters would only be activated in the event of war.
5. [redacted] source served with the 3d Btry of the 151st AAA Regt, which had the code name of "Partysan" and Post No 31/P. The battery was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Antonin Verr and included four German-made 88-mm AA guns towed by Tatra 111 trucks which carried the crews. The battery was equipped with one ballistic director (ustredni zamerovac) and one command set (radarovy zamerovac), each towed by one Tatra 128 truck. The unit included one signal squad and one reconnaissance squad, each of which rode on a Praha

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RND truck. The peace-time strength of the battery was 3 officers, 16 NCOs and about 80 men.

6. In early June 1952, the guns of the 3d Btry were emplaced in the "Na Vidouli" firing position, northwest of Jinonice on both sides of the west-bound railroad line.
 7. The 3d Btry continued basic training and commenced training with guns. Once a month, the battery made a short motorized training march. On 20 January 1952, the entire regiment left for the artillery range near Beroun (N 50/L 57). The billeting area, which included tents and excavated bunkers, was about 15 km west of Beroun, about 2 km northeast of Broumy (N 50/L 57). The firing position was about 5 km west of the billets. The practices which lasted 21 days started with firing at moving dummy tanks at a distance of from 800 to 1,000 meters, which resulted in poor scores and a few days later followed up with firing at towed-sleeve targets. In June, the battery commander said that in August 1952 the entire regiment would move to the Humene (East Slovakia) (R 49/E 86) area for firing practices.
 8. In June 1952, members of the 1929, 1930, and 1931 classes served with the 3d Btry of the 151st AAA Regt. They included an about equal number of Slovaks and Czechs.
 9. The dress uniform included a garrison cap, a blouse and trousers, an overcoat, boots, red-bordered black epaulets and patches with sheet metal AAA insignia. The service uniform was worn with laced shoes with low puttees instead of boots.
 10. The review held in Prague on 9 May 1952, involved three batteries of the 151st AAA Regt and three batteries of the 160th AAA Regt. A sedan mounting the regimental guidon, which was inscribed "Za vlast a socialism" meaning for our country and socialism, drove ahead of each regiment.
 11. Prior to the fall of 1951, source observed tanks in the old barracks installation in the northwestern sector of Banska Bystrica (Q 49/C 76), northwest of the main railroad station.
 12. In November 1951, the post headquarters moved from Red Army Quay to the former convent on ul. Kapituleske. The YMKA Building on Narodni tride housed the district headquarters of the Public Security Service. An army corps headquarters, which had been in a building on Red Army Quay, moved in the fall of 1951. A recruiting district headquarters also located in this building moved at the same time.
1. Comment. The two AAA divisions are reported for the first time. Previous reports mentioned only the 151st AAA Regt and stated that this regiment was quartered in the barracks installation in Pchorelec. A deserter said that the former Salesian convent was occupied by a PS or SNB school, which was allegedly exchanged in July 1951. The military occupation of the large insane hospital in Bohnice is reported for the first time.

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2. Comment. The organization of the regiment into four firing batteries of four guns without battalion headquarters corresponds to the organization and equipment of Soviet medium AAA regiments. From numerous press pictures and gun specifications by deserters, the former German Air Force 88-mm AA gun is known to be the standard gun of the Czech medium AAA regiments.

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3. Comment. Reports from Plzen, where the 155th AAA Regt is carried, indicate that 88-mm batteries in firing positions are rotated monthly. See

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4. Comment. An artillery range near Beroun is reported for the first time. Humene is on the perimeter of the large training grounds of Michalovce-Kamenica.

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5. Comment. An unsubstantiated previous report stated that the V Army Corps was stationed at Banska Bystrica in November 1951. This headquarters possibly moved to Trenzin.

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